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Authoritative Resume Of the CIA, Its Work

THE REAL CIA. By Lyman B. Kirkpatrick Jr. The Macmillan Company. 312 pp. \$6.95.

It seems amply apparent that no outsider could tell the story of the CIA and equally apparent that no member of the agency could or would give a detached account and evaluation of it.

In 1965, however, Lyman Kirkpatrick retired from the CIA to become professor of political science at Brown University. He had been an important component of the organization since its inception and had previously served in vital intelligence capacities. In short, upon his retirement he qualified with respect to both knowledge and objectivity.

It is generally known, of course, that the CIA is concerned with intelligence work, but many are unaware of the peculiar functions that distinguish it from our other intelligence agencies. The most important of these are to gather, beyond the territorial limits of our country, information pertinent to national security (as does the FBI within those limits) and to act as a clearing house for all intelligence material gathered by all intelligence activities, such as those of the various armed forces.

It is the duty of the CIA to present to the President and his policy-making advisers all available information bearing on the matter under consideration, gathered from whatever sources by whatever agency. Thus the policy makers have a single, integrated source of information rather than several.
Kirkpatrick's account is in

the form of memoirs, and to the general reader considerable portions will lack interest or enlightenment. Such a reader will not follow avidly the author's account of the various steps of organization and reorganization within the agency; but to the specialist and the historian the facts therein will be important.

On the other hand, many sections of the work will command the absorbed attention of the layman. Particularly interesting are the chapters on the U-2 episode, Batista's Cuba, the Bay of Pigs fiasco and the Cuban missile crisis.

Kirkpatrick's book is more authentic and authoritative than any we are likely to get on the subject for years to come.

—SAMUEL W. STEVENSON.